

The Great Antenna Shootout

On Sunday, June 8 we had the first “Great Antenna Shootout” at VE3SAO in the back yard. A lot of QRP’ers like to take their rigs and antennas out to the field and operate. Of course each of us brag we have the best rig / antenna setup. Unfortunately there was no solid data to back anyone’s claims.

We decided we should set up a rig and switch between antennas as quickly as possible and use the Reverse Beacon Network (RBN) to get some solid data on how each of our antennas was performing. Remember the RBN monitors bands and detects CQ’s and then record the call sign and signal strength in dB’s and then posts it to the RBN web page.

In order to ensure there were as few variables as possible we programmed one KX-3 to call CQ with the various call signs. We also used AC power to ensure the supply voltage did not vary over the test due to weakening batteries. All tests were done on 20M. We did try other bands but received no reports on the RBN.

Here is the list of stations that participated:

VE3AXL	3W to a 42’ vertical with 2 radials
VE3EDX	3W to a 18’ vertical with 4 radials
VE3EFC	5W to a loop a loop
VE3XT	3W to a 28’ sloper with 2 radials
VE3SAO	100W to a G5RV up 50’

Here are the results in tabular form

VE3AXL	VE3EDX	VE3EFC	VE3XT	VE3SAO
WZ7I 10dB	KM3TT 7dB	KM3T 4dB	KM3T 7dB	VE6AO 6dB
VE2WU 7	K1TTT 5	VE2WU 3	WE4S 5	WE4S 21
	WZ7I 8	WZ7I 5		WZ7I 22
				W3LPL 14
				N7TR 15
				W4KKN 19

I have also tabulated the data on a map. Clearly propagation was favouring an Easterly direction.

What does this show? Well clearly 100W to a G5RV at 50’ is going to beat the pants off 3W to much smaller antennas. The average of the 5 highest signal reports is 18 dB. The difference from 100W to 3W is approximately 15 dB or about 2.5 S Units. You can see from the results we should be getting results in the 3dB range for our QRP signals. Several results were much better. QRP works.

I’m hoping we can do this again several times before the summer is over and look forward to some of you participating.

Bill Unger VE3XT



THE GREAT ANTENNA SHOOTOUT

LARC SENATE

Robert Hansen VE3RVA
 Dave Kimpton VE3AVS
 Laurie Bridgett VE3BCD
 Terry Stewardson VA3LU
 Ed Baumann VE3SNW

LARC EXECUTIVE

**President - Jeff Cederwall
 VE3JTD**

**Vice President - Bob Hanson
 VE3RVA**

**Secretary - Karl Hamilton
 VE3RRP**

Treasurer -Bill Unger VE3XT

Directors

**Brad Harris VE3MXJ
 Andy Malcolm VE3INI
 Lori Bedford VE3VAI
 Terry Stewardson VA3LU**

LARC Emergency Coordinator

Brad Harris VE3MXJ 767-0628

**ARES District Emergency
 Coordinator**

VE3FAL Fred Lesnick 577-0789

CANWARN

**VA3JMS John 767-3631
 VE3MXJ Brad 767-0628**

Public Service Events

VA3JMS John 767-3631

Accredited Examiners

**VE3FAL Fred Lesnick 577-0789
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ABOUT US

The Lakehead Amateur Radio Club (LARC) is an incorporated not for profit group of amateur radio operators in the Thunder Bay area that meet for self education, community service and fellowship. Our meetings are the second Thursday of the month at room 191 McIntyre Building, Confederation College, 7:30 PM. Our postal address is 1100C Memorial Ave. Suite 184, Thunder Bay, Ontario P7B 4A3. This newsletter is published monthly except for July and August by Ed Baumann VE3SNW and questions and submissions may be emailed to ve3snw@shaw.ca

Nets in the Thunder Bay Area

Sunday AMETHYST ARES VHF NET, on VE3TBR 146.820- pl 107.2 IRLP Ref. # 9031 @ 0045Z (7:45 pm), also Cook County ARES Response Team (CARRT) net at 0100Z (8 pm) on the BWARC repeater, Grand Portage repeater - 146.655 with CTCSS 151.4

Monday SATERN NET on VE3TBR 146.820- pl 107.2 IRLP Ref. # 9032

SATERN DIGITAL NETS on **Monday & Wednesday** nights

8 pm- 14.065

9 pm- 7.065

10 pm- 3.5835

Mode :Olivia 8/500 1000Hz waterfall centre

Tuesday 2M/ LARC ARES NET on VE3YQT 147.060- @ 7:00PM ET, and after this net is the new THUNDER BAY ARES DIGITAL NET on PSK31 between 1000 & 2000 WATERFALL 145.050 FM mode @ 7:30PM (usually starts after the 2m/ ares net)

Every Day The NORTHWESTERN ONTARIO ARES NET , every evening at 8:15PM (local) on 80m 3.750Mhz (note the time does not change with daylight savings time.)

Any questions on these or other nets please feel free to contact me at my e-mail: ve3mxj@rac.ca

LARC OPEN ACCESS REPEATERS

VE3YQT(Mount Baldy)147.060 (-600) Phone Patch

VE3TBR (St. Joseph's) 146.820 pl 107.2

**442.075 (+5 MHz)pl 100
 144.390 APRS**

VE3UPP Upsala 145.470 (-600)

Minutes of the Lakehead Amateur Radio Club

Date: May 8, 2014

Vice President, Robert Hanson VE3RVA Presiding.

Guest Speaker:

Bill Unger VE3XT gave a presentation on the picaxe microprocessor

Treasurer's Report: Bill Unger VE3XT

Bill Unger VE3XT moved to accept the report as printed in Hi-Q. Seconded by George Dow VE3DOW. Passed Unanimously.

Minutes of Previous Meeting:

Karl Hamilton VE3RRP moved to accept the April's meeting's minutes as printed in Hi-Q. Seconded by Brad Harris VE3MXJ. Passed.

Old Business:

Public Service (John Sacek VA3JMS public events coordinator)

Upcoming Events:

Monday May 19 - 10 mile Road Race

July 1st Kakabeka Falls 5 Km run

Late July Triathlon

August Conquer the Dog

Aug 31, Sept 1st, Hymers Fair

September Caribou Bike Ride

September Thunder Bay Marathon

CANWARN John Sacek VA3JMS

Canwarn training June 9th 7 PM

ARES Brad Harris VE3MXJ Thunder Bay EC

Tuesday night VHF Net on VE3YQT at 7pm. Everyone invited to check-in.

Sunday night NW ON Amethyst VHF net on VE3TBR, IRLP Reflector 9031, 7:45 ET

Daily NW ON HF 3750 Khz, 8:15 ET if an operator is available

As yet, there is no permanent home for VE3ONN.

RAC Report Bill Unger VE3XT New website, 472-479 kHz band approved by Industry Canada. Suggestions for band planning committee to rachq@rac.ca .

Repeater News

Randy Gottfred VA3OJ,

Terry Stewardson VA3LU

VE3TBR on the NW ON IRLP reflector 9031.

Club Trailer:

Bob Hansen VE3RVA

A lockbox for keys has been donated. The trailer will be used for the Triathlon. A heater and fan are on the list to acquire.

2 Day Weekend License Course

14 people interested, postponed to June. We need volunteers to instruct.

New Business

Field Day: Location TBA

Budget: TBA

50/50 Draw: Brad Harris VE3MXJ

Adjournment moved by: Andy Malcolm VE3INI

**Next Executive Meeting: June 5, 2014,
7:30 PM**

**Next LARC Meeting:
June 12, 2014, 7:30 PM**

**HAVE A SAFE AND
HAPPY SUMMER!**

North East Ontario Regional Directors Report for June, 2014



I've just returned from Dayton and helped man the RAC booth. It's always a pleasure to meet Canadian Amateurs from across the country that stop by and say hello. It gives us a chance to say thanks to all the RAC members who support the Canadian organisation with their memberships and help man the booth as well.

As I mentioned in my last report I am retiring as director effective this December as I am termed out. It was very much my pleasure to be the Director for the North / East of Ontario. But as the commercial says, "all good things must end." So we now need a new Director. I would like to spend some time describing the job description of a Director. As with most jobs there are meetings. The Board of Directors meets once a month for our meeting and typically they last around 2 hours. It's conducted via the Internet and a program called Go To Meeting. The minutes of all past meetings are posted on the RAC website so you can see what we are talking about. Obviously budgets are important, planning for discussions with Industry Canada, how we can better represent Canadian Amateurs to all levels of government and increasing the public awareness of Amateur Radio are just a few broad areas. Admittedly not the most exciting part of being a Director but we are conducting the business of RAC and setting our future directions. This could be your chance to influence how RAC looks going forward. And for the record I see a brilliant future for RAC.

In the almost 7 years as a Director I have been incredibly fortunate to meet so many great Amateurs across North East Ontario, Canada and around the world. As mentioned earlier I have just returned from Dayton and met many Canadians and even more of our American friends who stop by to say hello and tell us of great visits or QSO's with Canadian Amateurs. Rita and I have been to several Annual General Meetings in Halifax, St. Johns and last year in Ancaster. I now know Amateurs in all those cities who I can truly call friends. We turn it into a vacation by spending some time in the cities and play tourist. It's truly a Hamcation and vacation all in one. Every Canadian needs to experience East Coast hospitality at least once.

Here in Ontario we have VA3RAC available for use. When I first started as Director very, very seldom did we get a request for its use. Now we may have to set up a policy on its use as many operators want it for various contest weekends. It really is a treat so send an email telling a RAC member they can be VA3RAC.

Nothing can beat the feeling you get when you call a young Amateur telling them they are going to receive a scholarship from RAC. You first hear the excitement and then the realisation that they are getting financial assistance to further their education from RAC thanks to many the many generous Canadian Amateurs who support this program.

I will continue this thread in September. As in years past I will not send out a report for July and August. Don't forget the RAC Canada Contest on July 1 and please give a listen for VE3XT in the fray.

If you have any questions or concerns please email me at ve3xt@rac.ca

Bill VE3XT

North East Ontario Regional Director

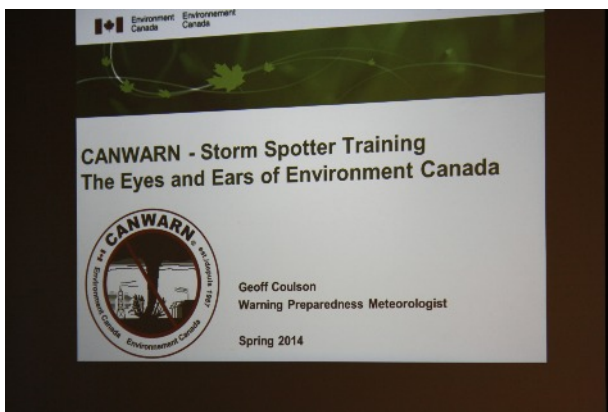
CANWARN TRAINING 2014



Eager participants signing in to the class



Getting settled



VE3XRC and Geoff having a break



Geoff explaining Tornadoes



Happy winner of a new Weather Radio



And that's another lecture done!

OQP 2014

Tom Haavisto VE3CX

For OQP 2014, Manu and I were going to head to Kenora. Manus dog passed away last week, so he decided not to come. I headed out Saturday morning - wx was fine, but there was white-out conditions starting at Raith - finally cleared up on the other side of Dryden. Slow driving behind a transport, and there were three cars on one 18 wheeler parked in the ditch along that stretch of road. Got on the air 2 hours late.

Used the K3 (100 watts), and I was having problems with phone, so I did CW only - worked out fine. Used an R5 at five feet fed with 100 feet on RG-8X. Screwed a tripod to a pallet, then mounted the R5 on that. At night, I took the R5 down, and put 25 feet of pipe on there with a 40 inverted vee. One end was wrapped around a concrete barrier, and the other end was 5 feet off the ground tied to a name post in the parking lot. It was interesting! Used the tuner to get me on 60, and while it heard well - zero Q's on 80 :-(This is from the Hydro One office in Kenora.

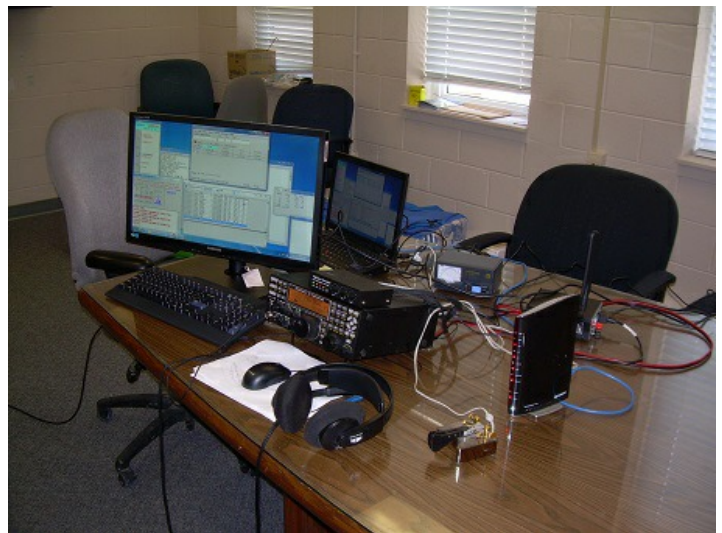
R5 and the inverted vee worked surprizingly well! Conditions were good, and even managed a few runs. Just thought I would pass along a few pictures of the setup. It was a BLAST!! When operating, I never paid much attention to the antenna - just ran like I was QRO, and put Q's in the log.

Managed to beat the old Kenora record by quite a bit. Old record was just sky of 20K - new record is over 80K, so mission accomplished!

Here is the breakdown:

Band	QSOs	Pts	Mul
7	76	160	45
14	149	322	59
21	60	120	27
28	7	14	4
Total	292	616	135

score: 83,160





Our intrepid volunteers at the Firemans Ten Mile Roadrace - Judy Cats VA3EAP, Pat Pugh VA3PP, and on the two-wheeler Norm Bell VE3XRC

D-Day SPECIAL EVENT STATIONS

SUBMITTED BY BILL UNGER VE3XT

Several special event stations will be on the air to commemorate the 70th anniversary of D-Day —the Allied invasion of the Normandy Coast of France in World War II.

In France, TM70JUN will be on the air from June 6 — the actual anniversary date — until June 20. Modes will be SSB, CW, PSK, RTTY, and JT65 on HF and 6 meters.

Special event station TM70BMC will operate from Mont Canisy June 5-8.

W9D will be active on SSB, CW, and AM on HF through 6 meters June 6-8 from the First Division War Museum in Winfield, Illinois.

VC3JUNO from Canada will be on the air from June 6 until July 31 to commemorate the 70th anniversary of D-Day; “Juno” was the code name for the beach where Canadian forces landed.

The Riverway Amateur Radio Society will sponsor special event station GB70DDL from June 1 until June 28 from the Sea Cadet headquarters in Stafford, England.

On June 6, 1944, 160,000 Allied troops landed along a 50-mile stretch of heavily-fortified French coastline to fight Nazi Germany on the Normandy beaches. The attack was a major turning point in the war. More than 5000 ships and 13,000 aircraft supported the invasion, in which more than 9000 Allied soldiers were killed or wounded.

SEE YOU IN SEPTEMBER! *

* I WILL SEND OUT SPECIAL BULLETINS DURING THE SUMMER MONTHS AND IF YOU AREN'T OUT CAMPING, JOIN US FOR COFFEE AT BOSTON ON ARTHUR - THURSDAYS AT 9